

Sea Spaces:

Fleet Forces Command Environmental and Natural Resource Planning at Sea

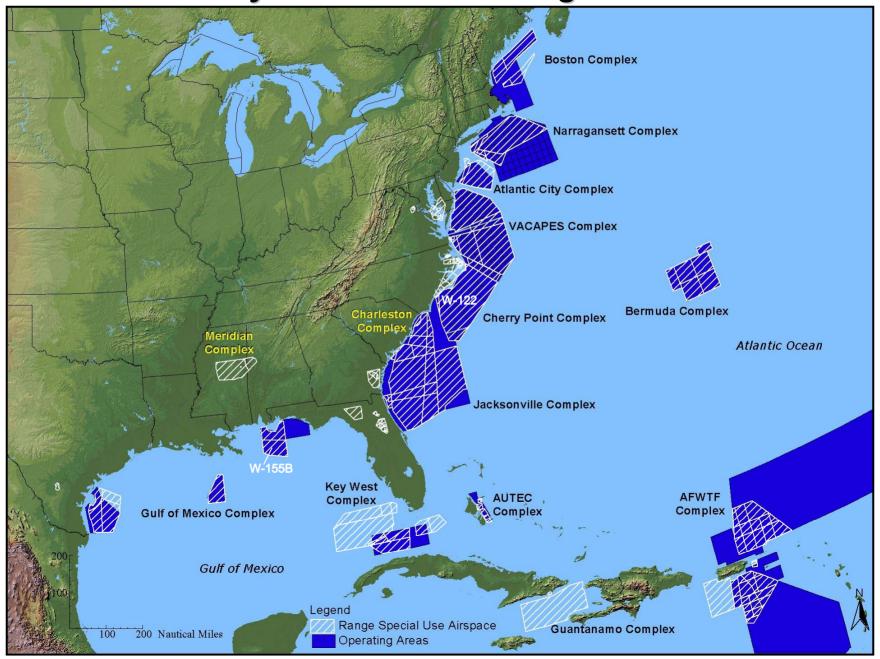
LCDR Will Dunaway, Fleet Forces Command August 2004 DOD Conservation Conference

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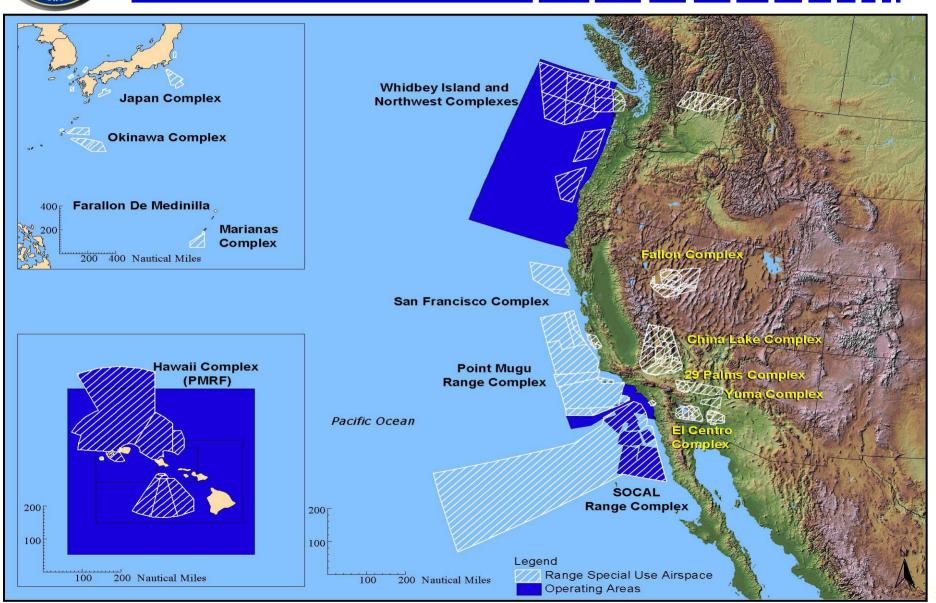
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Navy East Coast Training Areas





West Coast and Pacific Navy Training Areas





Challenges in the Marine Environment

- Training area management
 - No fence line all "white spaces"
- Size of training areas (168K sq nm on East Coast alone)
 - Limitations on data collection/monitoring
- Marine resource science evolving and contentious
 - Impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals
 - Distribution and abundance of species
- Regulatory timeframes vs Training timeframes
 - MMPA permit timeline can be a year or more once application is submitted to NOAA



FFC Approach

- Operational focus
- High quality information
- Communication and coordination

<u>Vision</u>: Support long-term Navy training flexibility and success in achieving training requirements while minimizing impacts to the at sea environment.



Operational Focus

- Implement comprehensive and programmatic compliance strategies
 - ➤ E.g., Ensure comprehensive environmental coverage is in place to support range complex objectives...TAP
- Increase responsiveness to training needs through improved processes
- Develop mitigation approaches and tools that protect the integrity of training



Tactical Training Theater Assessment & Planning (TAP) Program

A comprehensive, operationally-driven integrated process to sustain naval training assets & enhance readiness by:

- Reducing risk of training capability erosion by identifying & mitigating encroachment concerns (airspace, urban growth, radio frequency, etc.)
- > Ensuring range capabilities match requirements
 - Developing a unified strategic vision from all users
 - Correlating range investment directly to training requirements
- Addressing environmental requirements in a comprehensive manner



Tactical Training Theater Assessment & Planning (TAP) Program (cont.)

Range Complex Management Plans (RCMPs)

TAP documents that tie together operational & environmental issues for each range complex

RCMP (updated every 5 years) includes:

- Complete description of all training areas
- Comprehensive baseline of current range operations
- Strategic vision for future requirements
- Inventory of encroachment and sustainment challenges
- Environmental issues and requirements
- Outreach blueprint
- Range investment strategy



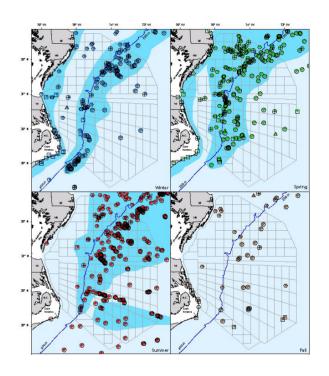
Operational Focus (cont.)

- Implement comprehensive and programmatic compliance strategies
 - ➤ E.g., Ensure comprehensive environmental coverage is in place to support future range complex objectives...TAP.
- Increase responsiveness to training needs through improved processes
 - ➤ E.g., Develop operational training curriculum for Navy environmental/conservation personnel to include classroom, at sea, on range, and inter-command experience.
- Develop mitigation approaches and tools that protect the integrity of training
 - E.g, Evaluate new/creative approaches and technologies to make mitigation more effective and more transparent, and
 - Enhance ability of bridge watch teams and aircrews to detect marine species. Revised training program to be available on CDROM and video in winter 2005.



High Quality Information

- Use best available scientific data to analyze Fleet interaction with the environment
 - ➤ E.g., Maintain up-to-date Marine Resource Assessments/Density Reports
- Fill critical gaps in understanding of Fleet impacts on protected marine resources
 - E.g., Establish/seek funding for priority research/analysis needs to support FLT training (recent example: beaked whale habitat characterization and prediction)



Conservation community is essential in providing the best available information to decision-makers in order to integrate marine species protection into training missions.



Communication and Coordination

Improve communication and ensure consistency

➤ E.g., Develop a center of expertise and partnership networks to provide technical support for the at sea program - newly established Marine Resources Support Group (network).

Build public confidence

➤ E.g., Participate at Fleet and/or regional level in appropriate interagency or public working groups (Examples: Recovery Plan Implementation Teams, Marine Sanctuary Advisory Groups, etc.).



Summary

Most Navy training areas are "white space" and present different issues and challenges from land based training areas. Addressing these issues requires:

- Comprehensive, operationally focused approach
- High quality information for decision-making
- Extensive communication and coordination (internal and external to Navy and DOD).